

P/2154-99

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Leopold Werner Kepplinger, et al.

Serial No.: 10/813,140

Group Art Unit: 1742

Filed: March 29, 2004

Examiner: Kathleen A. McNelis

For: METHOD FOR REDUCING A PARTICULATE MATERIAL CONTAINING A
METAL, ESPECIALLY IRON ORE

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.132

Sir:

We, Leopold Werner Kepplinger, Johann Reidetschlager, Johannes Schenk, Siegfried Zeller, Konstantin Milionis, and Hanspeter Ofner, declare as follows:

1. We are the inventors named in the above-captioned application.
2. From the teaching in our application that a reducing gas without oxygen is supplied to the first gas pathway reactor, it implicitly follows that an oxygen-free reducing gas is also added to the first particulate pathway reactor, since the reducing gas is led countercurrently to the particulate material from the first reaction zone to the last reaction zone in the gas pathway without any addition or external changes, (see specification and figures).
3. As the reactions taking place in the reaction zones do not generate oxygen, (see the reactions on pages 1 and 2 of the specification), we respectfully submit that, on entering the final gas pathway reaction zone, the reducing gas cannot suddenly contain oxygen.
4. We hereby declare that all statements made herein of our own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States

Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Date: 2006-11-09

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